

# BRISCOE BRIEFS



Christmas 1929

Volume Four

Number Two

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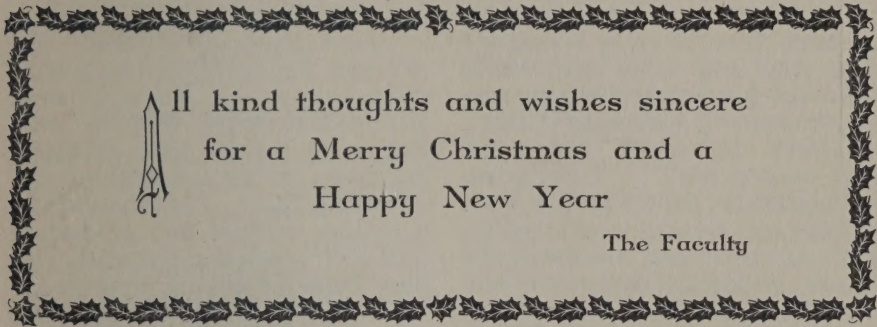
Telephone 2094, 2095

HENRY S. ARCHER, Mgr.



# BRISCOE BRIEFS

Written and Edited by Seventh and Eighth Grade Pupils  
of the Briscoe School, Beverly, Massachusetts



All kind thoughts and wishes sincere  
for a Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year

The Faculty

## Christmas Spirit

CHRISTMAS is the one day of the year in which everyone does, or at least should try, to spread joy and happiness. This can be accomplished in various ways. Probably the outstanding manner is by the exchange of gifts, a custom handed down to us by the jovial Dutch settlers of New York who brought with them across the ocean the joyous observances of the fatherland and to whom we of the New World owe our Santa Claus. There are many occasions afforded all of us to gladden the heart of someone, and we should always be alert to grasp and not miss any opportunity.

The true spirit of Christmas is reflected in the lives of those who are always willing to sacrifice themselves that others less favored may be blest. In making our Christmas gifts we should try to remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves and whose Christmas will be made

happier by a remembrance from us. Those who cannot afford a gift can perpetuate the spirit by some kind act or greeting. There is one way, whether rich or poor, we can live up to the spirit and that is by conducting ourselves throughout the year in such a manner that at Yuletide our hearts will be filled with joy and we can lift our voices in praise singing, "Peace on earth, Good will to men."

*Priscilla Q. Stone*  
*Editor-in-Chief*

## The Cave's Christmas Gift

FAR up in the Swiss mountains north of Bern lived a little deaf boy named Hans. He had received a severe blow on the head when he was only four years old and this had caused his deafness.

Hans successfully manufactured little music boxes which when completed he would test by putting them up to his dog's ear and turning the little cranks. If

the dog jumped, he knew that his work was successful.

As the years rolled by, Hans seemed to be slowly losing interest in his work. The doctor discovered that he was losing his mind and said that only restoration of his hearing would prevent him from becoming insane.

Hans's eighteenth Christmas was approaching. Everyone seemed to be happy in the little village between the mountains, that is, everyone except poor Hans. No longer did people buy his little music boxes for Christmas gifts, because the workmanship in them was not so carefully done as before.

It was the day before Christmas. That morning poor forgotten Hans left the pretty little Swiss village, and with his only faithful friend, his dog Bruin, he started for the mountains to the north. That night he slept in an old deserted hut. Early the next morning he arose and went to the door. He saw that he was at the edge of a pretty lake on the summit of a small mountain.

"Come, Bruin," he said and together they descended the hill. When he reached the top of the second mountain, he caught views of Lake Geneva in the distance with its sparkling waters and the gleaming house tops and church spires of its shores. At once he decided to make beautiful Geneva his destination.

When he entered the city, he found everyone in a frenzy of excitement. Men were running around with bags of gold which had been found in the mountains. Hans decided to try his luck and

stake a claim in the mountains. He trudged along over hill and vale until he reached an entrance to a cave. Smoke was pouring from its mouth.

Hans cautiously entered. An old man was bending over a steel red hot crowbar. His arms were strong and wiry, and he was clothed in a tiger skin garment. Suddenly he turned around and on seeing Hans, snarled at him in a foreign tongue and rushed at him with a wooden hammer. He hit the lad a glancing blow on the head above the ear. A great whistling sensation occurred in Hans's ear.

Bruin leaped upon the hermit and dug his long fangs into the man's throat. The hermit shouted madly and with unbelievable strength fought the dog off and went tearing down the mountain side crying with pain.

Hans heard those cries and it was a good five seconds before he realized that at last he could hear. He danced around the floor with joy. Suddenly he stopped short for he saw glittering specks and streaks glistening among the rocks. Gold! He gathered up a handful and rushed to Geneva where he exchanged the mineral for money and hired some needy men to work his claim.

How happy he was that Christmas Day! His best friend Bruin had saved his life; his hearing had been restored; and wealth had descended upon him.

He went around the streets giving francs to the poor, blessing the rich, and thanking God for his great goodness.

*Clifton Potter, 8 G L*



## The Briscoe Briefs

A school paper issued by the students of  
the Briscoe School, Beverly, Mass.

Vol. 4.

No. 2

December, 1929

### Briscoe Briefs Staff

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7-G	Frances Thompson
7-L	Mary Watson
7-V	Ethel Greenstein
7-H	Elsie Maxner
7-A	Richard Lewis
7-M	Chrisile Fladger

### Exchange

THE exchange column of Briscoe Briefs through its editor extends to the exchange columns of all neighboring Junior High papers a hearty wish for a "Very Merry Christmas". We give to you all a cordial invitation to become one of the members of our exchange column. We shall be glad to receive your paper and to

have your criticisms of our paper, for we feel that we can grow bigger and better by helpful and kindly suggestions and criticisms. Briscoe Briefs is interested in becoming as fine a paper as possible. Please mail us at Briscoe School, Beverly, Mass., a copy of your paper. It is fine to have neighbors. May we become better acquainted.

The Nor'easter, Northeastern Junior High School, Somerville, Mass.—Your Graduation Number is very complete, well arranged and interesting.

The Lemon-Stir, Junior High School, Leominster, Mass.—It appears that you have many clubs of interest for the children.

Barbara C. Stiles  
Literary Editor

### Christmas

Christmas tide, the joy of the year  
When on us God bestows  
The gifts of love and kindness,  
And relieves us from our woes.

The time when Jesus, our Saviour,  
In Bethlehem was born,  
But a meek babe in the manger  
He rose to the crown of thorns.

He grew to a light unfailing,  
To stand on the rocky shore,  
The shore of miserable sinning,  
And from it us he borne.

Jesus, our mighty Saviour,  
The lord and giver of life,  
Whose kind and leading spirit  
Has lead us through many a  
strife.

Frederick Kilham

### Christmas at Briscoe

*"Deck the halls with boughs of holly,  
'Tis the season to be jolly".*

**T**IS Christmas everywhere, and at Briscoe the spirit of Christmas was kept indeed. In the morning the entire student body gathered in the assembly hall to enjoy a play put on by some of the students. This year to interpret the meaning of Christmas "The Birds Christmas Carol" was chosen. It sparkled with fun, and it left with us the lesson of loving and giving. All the parts were portrayed well, and the finish of the production reflected much credit on Miss Hazelton and Miss Harrison who coached the play.

The cast was as follows:

Uncle Jack	William Allen
Carol	Eleanor Burns
Mrs. Ruggles	Dorothy Blotner
Sarah Maude	Frances Wood
Peter	Robert Stowell
Peoria	Elizabeth Nicoll
Clement	Warren Towne
Kitty	Marjorie Whitaker
Cornelius	Francis MacDonough
Susan	Virginia O'Reilly
Larry	Gerard LeBel

In the afternoon we came together once more in the hall. This time it was to listen to a musical program. Under the very capable direction of Miss Robbins, Miss Varney, Miss Lapham and Miss McCurdy, the cantata entitled "The Wondrous Story" was presented. As in the morning's program, all parts were well taken, and the message of Christ was made clear.

Those taking part were:

*The Three Wise Men*

Howard Higgins	Charles Datillo
Leo Tower	

#### Attendants

Edward Stanley	James Clough
	Charles Elliott

#### Shepherds

Frances Arabian	Thomas Tierney
Eleanor Marshall	Resper Kelly
Isabel Choate	Lucy Furnari
Edith Mills	Corinne Semple
Gladys Yaffa	Mary Clemenzi
Bertha Kaplan	Jenevalla DiGregorio
Priscilla Stone	Adelina Innocenti
Blanche Sherman	James Herrick
Almira Beaulieu	Verdun Willis
Anita Dussault	Frederick Cobb
Josephine Moroni	Aligheri Latini
Frank Gillis	Elmer Harrison
Ralph Teague	Grace Dale
Lincoln Graydon	Rosamond Burke
Robert Morse	Sammy Melei
Frederick Kilham	Edmund Dudley
Doris Leonard	Phillip Remare
Mary Mercaldi	Marion Semple
Rita Deering	Ruth Moser
	Marian Lynch

*Barbara C. Stiles  
Literary Editor*

### Organization of Health Council

The first meeting of the Students' Health Council was held in the Lecture Hall on Monday at 1.30 p.m.

The following officers were elected:

#### President

Jack Emerson	8 G B
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#### Vice-President

Lawrence LaFleur	8 G L
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#### Secretary

Edith Gallagher	8 C Ha
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#### Assistant Secretary

Katherine Duran	8 C S
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The following pupils are members of the Health Council:

Theresa Vitale	7 A
Thomas Tierney	7 G
Rose Cohen	7 H
Mary Watson	7 L
Marion Waite	7 M
William Lawson	7 Mc
Helen Thompson	7 V



Virginia Clayton 8 G E  
 Dorothy O'Brien 8 C H  
 Thelma DeTour 8 C Hn  
 Frank Hughes P A's  
 Dorothy Legro P A 3

Miss Pierson, the school nurse,  
 is the Advisor.

### Organization of Principal's Committee

The dependable students who  
 have been chosen by the teachers  
 to make up the Principal's Com-  
 mittee which assists Mr. Cronin  
 in deciding school matters are as  
 follows:

Shirley Grush, Chairman 8 G B  
 Alice Gutman, Secretary 8 C Hn

Nellie Santisi 7 A  
 Reta Greenough 7 G  
 Joseph Andreas 7 H  
 Frank Plamondon 7 L  
 Burton Peterson 7 M  
 Arline Waite 7 Mc  
 Alice Semple 7 V  
 Eleanor Burns 8 G E  
 Charles Datillo 8 G L  
 Beverly Drown 8 C H  
 Elizabeth Parisella 8 C Ha  
 Helen Perry 8 C S  
 Embardo Julius P A 1  
 Paul Keene P A 2  
 Lucy Furnari P A 3

*Frederick Kilham*

### Basket Ball

**B**ASKET ball is started at Bris-  
 coe now and every team must  
 remember our motto "Play the  
 Game Fair". A person playing  
 on the floor in an unsportmanlike  
 manner is doing an unfair thing  
 and should look upon himself or  
 herself as a poor sport. As there  
 is just as much honor in losing as  
 in winning if you play fair and  
 play your hardest.

The captains for this season  
 are as follows:

8 G L	8 C Hn
Albert Foss	Clark Shattuck
Oscar Proud	Anita Ventura
8 G B	8 C H
John Dailey	Mario Lattorella
Dorothy Blotner	Marion Silver
8 C Ha	P A 1 and 2
Albert Barbati	Albert Mallette
Mary Laws	Eugene Romani
8 C S	P A 3
Arthur Gadbois	Deborah Wills
Yolanda Pisani	8 G E
Lois Greenough	John Mountain
7 A	Betty Herndon
Steven Vitale	7 Mc
Mary Mallette	David Coletti
7 V	Violet Melei
Gordon Winchester	7 L
Ethel Greenstein	Lewis Lamontagne
7 G	Della Bertonio
Robert Goldsmith	7 H
Helen Moore	Perino Tosi
	Susie DiLorenzo

*Frank Sinclair*

### Building the Christmas Tree

The wind blows north, the drifting snow,  
 Whitens the earth 'neath the somber glow,  
 'Tis evening, and the lowering sky,  
 Proclaims to all, King Winter's nigh.

In contrast with the wintry night,  
 Inside the yuletide cheer so bright,  
 Is being spread in green design,  
 The Christmas tree and fragrant pine,

Father stands the tree upright,  
 Mother steers his efforts right,  
 While Sister hangs the tinsel balls,  
 Small Brother stands and loudly calls.

At last the tree stands fair and tall,  
 Electric lights and glittering ball,  
 The clock says ten, 'tis bed time now,  
 But sleep to come is very slow.

The stockings are hung by the chimney  
 nook,  
 The children retire with a backward look,  
 Father and Mother sit down at last,  
 And say to each other, "Once more 'tis  
 past".

*Virginia Lee, 8 G B*

## 8 G L

## Commander Byrd

8 G L has made a very interesting study of the life of Byrd under the direction of Miss McCurdy. We brought in selections from the newspapers telling of Commander Byrd's wonderful flight over the South Pole. We read Byrd's own story of the flight over the Pole and made a collection of pictures. From Byrd's book called "Skyward" we learned the story of his life. He has been cited twenty times for bravery and also received the thanks of Congress as well as the four highest medals the United States can give. He has flown over both the North and South Poles and was a pioneer in flying from New York to France. For over twenty hours he saw neither land, sea, nor sky. Mr. Coolidge praised his courage and other virtues, but emphasized the fact that Byrd had never ceased preparing himself mentally, scientifically, and physically. This man who is now risking his life to explore that great waste of snow and ice at the South Pole has suffered many disappointments but found in the end that most of these were to his own advantage. We may indeed admire Commander Richard Byrd and try to be like him in every way.

*Frank Sinclair*

## Class Notes

## 8 G E

8 G E is having a most interesting experience in literature this year. Miss Eaton read aloud to

the class the poem, "The Lady of the Lake" on which we are now making note books. Each person is collecting pictures which illustrate the poem. Under each picture we copy certain stanzas to make the meaning of the picture clearer. Almost everybody enjoyed the poem, and I am sure we all enjoy the making of our note books. It has proved such an interesting subject we shall be sorry to finish it.

*Marjorie May*

## 7 H

In 7 H English class we sometimes play an interesting game that teaches us to build good sentences. Each row chooses a captain who sits in the front seat. Mr. Gilman gives each captain a word to be used in a sentence. Everybody adds to the sentence made by the person in front of him. The winners are the people in each row who make the best sentence.

*Elsie Maxner*

## 7 Mc

7 Mc and 7 V have a class notebook on Miss Anderson's bulletin board. In it are put various examples of arithmetic, depending upon what the classes are studying. There are many illustrations, sketches, and explanations by the members of the classes. One pupil was detailed to make a cover, and another to make a title page. A committee has been appointed to receive and put good material in the class notebook.

*Robert Buckley*



## 7 A

7 A is studying about all the explorers and, let me tell you, it is interesting. Each of us is pretending he is some explorer or one of his men. In this role we give talks before the class telling about our adventures. Some of the children wish they had as much money as some of the explorers got when they found gold.

*Richard Lewis*

## 8 G B

8 G B has been entertained twice in the last two months by members of the class. The first time a Hallowe'en play was given, directed by Frances Wood. The play was a very true-to-life sketch of children's mischievous Hallowe'en pranks. Mr. Cronin was our guest of honor. After the play was over, he taught us to play charades. We all enjoyed this very much as Mr. Cronin took part.

The second play was about all the holidays that come in October. Phyllis Snell had charge of this play. Two girls were studying and remarking what an uninteresting month October was, when in came famous men whose birthdays were in October along with the Spirit of Hallowe'en.

These plays were written and rehearsed by the members of the class without help from any teacher.

*Dorothy Blotner*

## 7 V

The pupils in 7 V are divided in two groups in spelling. Helen Thompson is at the head of one group and Henry Roy of the other.

The group that has the higher percent or the more hundreds in written spelling is the winner for the week. The two leaders hope that some of the pupils will study harder and so improve the marks in their group.

*Ethel Greenstein*

## 7 M

7 M hygiene club made Health Posters to illustrate the rules of good health. Miss Murray chose posters made by the following pupils for display:

Burton Peterson	Jean Davis
Winslow Stringer	Chester Rogers
Ethel Corning	Louis Bennett
Phillip Olson	Daniel Murphy
Lillian Hinkley	Evelyn Larivee
Elma Kleemola	Natalie Butman
Joseph Fortunato	

*Chrisile Fladger*

## 8 C Ha

The boys and girls of 8 C Ha are taking great interest in geography this year. We are studying the three needs of man: food, shelter, and clothing. In our geography notebooks we have collected information on these subjects and pictures illustrating them. Every day some member of the class reads his notes aloud. Each one is striving to make his notebook the most interesting one in the division.

*Jemma DeSantis*

## 7 G

In Miss Coleman's history class 7 G is studying the "Period of Exploration and Discovery." It promises to be very interesting as charts are being made, and relays, matching topics, and true-false games are played. On the charts we put the name of the explorer or discoverer, date he ex-

explored or discovered, what he explored or discovered, and what country he did it for. We leave a column for remarks as sometimes a man from some country explores or discovers for another country.

*Frances Thompson*

### P A 1 and 2

Down in the basement of the old building is our shop. Our teacher is Mr. Dutelle. We are making two hundred pairs of bookblocks for Miss Lyons, the drawing teacher. It is interesting to know how these are made. First we take a long flat board and put it on the buzz planer and plane the roughness from one side. We then put it on the circular saw and saw it into long narrow strips. It is then sawed into small blocks by the circular saw. These blocks are marked by a pattern and are sawed out on the bandsaw. After this is done, they are taken to a boy who planes them with a hand plane. Other boys take the blocks which have been planed and sand paper them. After this process the bookblocks are ready for the owner.

*Eugene Turner*

### 8 C H

As we entered the typewriting room one day recently we were greeted by good news.

Miss Hartshorn announced, "We shall take the one hundred most common words."

The room was in joy, and "ah's" and "oh's" were to be heard.

The first word we took was "the". The highest number of words per minute was sixty-eight written by Beverly Drown.

The second word was "and" upon which Adeline Begg scored sixty-three words per minute.

We all enjoy typewriting this year, and when we enter the room, there are always exclamations of pleasure.

*Delphine Hirtle*

### 8 C S

One of the most interesting things we do in 8 C S English is the writing of compositions. The class is divided into eight groups. Each group has some special topic to look out for as titles, beginning sentences, ending sentences, or grammatical errors. The best composition of each group is read before the class. After the eight are read, every pupil writes a letter to the person who he thinks did the best work. Of course the student receiving the largest number of letters is the winner.

*Bertha Kaplan*

### 7 L

A very interesting and worth while demonstration of first aid was given by two 7 L boy scouts. Leo Leck explained the proper treatment for reviving a drowning person while Louis Lamontague worked the method on Armando Scanzani. This was a very helpful lesson because there are many times during the winter and summer seasons that we might aid our friends.

*Mary Watson*

### 8 C Ha

Miss Anderson's eighth grade arithmetic classes have made a class notebook. A committee of



one pupil from each class was formed and they gathered together papers from all the notebooks and hung them up at the back of the room. The classes of 8 C H, 8 C Hn and the P A divisions are competing and every pupil is working hard on his notebook so that one of his papers may be chosen. Rita Buffett made the cover with a clever mathematical design on it.

*Mabel Fiske*

### P A 3

An interesting venture in P A 3 arithmetic this fall has been the making of notebooks. In these we wrote an explanation of each subject as we studied it, and pasted illustrations and clippings bearing upon our topics. Passing our notebooks in the first time, we did not get a very good mark, but as time goes on we intend to do better in appearance and content. But, as the saying goes, we got from our work just what we put into it.

*Alice DiSario*

### Alumni Snatches

IT is most pleasing to note that the names of twenty-six former Briscoe students appear on the honor roll at Beverly High for the first quarter ending November 14, 1929. The Briscoe Briefs wishes to congratulate the following students and trust that each one's name will appear on all suc-

ceeding honor rolls while at the Beverly High School: \*

#### FIRST HONORS

##### Seniors

Lillian Axelrod  
Myrtle Dockham  
Mary Kelleher  
Max Stern

##### Juniors

Vivian Cann  
Frances Horgan

##### Sophomores

Walter Bristow  
Rosella Fagan  
Pauline Leighton

##### Freshmen

Barbara Demack  
Harold Smith

#### SECOND HONORS

##### Seniors

Jacob Lichman  
Katherine Martin  
Karl Reeve  
Elmer Smith

##### Juniors

Lillian Seligman

##### Sophomores

Joseph Gilligan  
Vera Lewis  
Helen Martin  
Chester Wykes  
Henry Zassman

##### Freshmen

Eva Howard  
Rosemary Pope  
John Welch  
Phyllis Weldon

*Priscilla Stone*

### Class of 1926

Another year has come around when we of the alumni must check up on ourselves and see if we have lived up to Briscoe's motto, "Play the Game Fair". Since there would be neither time nor space to account for our whole class, we will make those most active in school life speak for the class as a whole. In checking up we find that:

Charles Scullen, never to be forgotten for his constant standing position in class, is now attending St. John's Prep School and is doing very well.

Raleigh Silverio also is attending St. John's with excellent results.

In school itself we have Maynard Walker and Emanuel Mateik as leaders of the orchestra and Roger Munsey as leader of the band. Roger is also the president of the Glee Club and about to sing the leading role in the coming operetta, "Pepita". We cannot imagine what school would be like without Roger to cheer us along with a song.

In the literary world we have Norman Cressy as editor of the Aegis and Gertrude Cohen as editor of the B. H. S. News. The School is certainly getting a treat from the papers edited by these two outstanding classmen.

In the government we have Austin Hermanson the secretary of the Student Council and Katherine Martin, a very outstanding member of that body.

As president of the Dramatic Club we find Mary Bunk the renowned orator of our class. Along with her we have Max Stern president of the Debating Club whose talents in argumentation are well known.

In sports we have Johnnie DiRubio, captain of the football squad and Bobbie Bartlett, captain of the cross-country team, not bad representatives.

Therefore in all phases of school life we find that graduates from Briscoe are taking an active part in trying to "Play the Game Fair."

*Mary Kelleher  
Briscoe 1926*

### Class of 1927

Alfred Seccombe, a popular member of the class of '27 is now

attending St. James Prep, Maryland.

Robert Dillon, another well-known member is a student in Goffstown High School, New Hampshire.

Bob Fuller did some fine work as manager of the football team this year.

Bob Fuller, Lydia Jordan and Florence Lane are now lieutenants on the B.H.S. safety patrol.

Florence Lane and Mary Knowlton are doing good work as cashiers in the cafeteria.

Three Briscoe members are still our class officers. Bob Fuller, president; Fred Murphy, vice-president; and Jack Hurley, treasurer.

Marion Webb is secretary of the Dramatic Club.

Louise Porter is now attending Ashley Hall, South Carolina.

Norman Knowles has been doing great work in art in High School.

Frances Horgan, Lydia Jordan, Lillian Seligman and Norman Knowles are new members of the Aegis.

Robert Story is Managing Editor of the B.H.S. News and Stanley Pierce is Business Manager.

Gifford Pedrick has been placed on Safety Patrol this year.

Albert Conti, one of our popular Briscoe members, is more than welcomed to Beverly High after living in Clinton, Mass. since the eighth grade. He was Bob Fuller's assistant manager of the football team this year.

*Lydia Jordan  
Briscoe 1927*

*Editor's Note*

We are planning to have an



Alumni Column each issue. May we not have some Alumni notes from classes of 1928 and 1929?

### "Pick Ups"

Members of the Alumni have been greatly surprised when seeing our new Art Room. Its shining walls and art desks and the room as a whole make them think that Briscoe is surely advancing.

Club work is in full swing at Briscoe. The Debating Club has been working in preparation for their debate "Resolved that a girl is a better citizen than a boy at Briscoe" which will be given at one of our regular Wednesday morning assemblies.

The Dramatic Clubs have been entertaining each other with selections, and under the name of the Blackbirds and Bluebirds they have been preparing for the play they gave Friday, December 20th which was "The Bird's Christmas Carol".

The members of the Math Club have thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the meetings in which they had the History of Mathematics in story, Mathematical jokes and puzzles, construction work with the circle and bisecting of lines. They have also kept very interesting notebooks.

The members of the Home Decorating Club have been carrying out the project of equipping a girl's bedroom.

The art of entertaining people is the project of the Home Economics Club.

The members of the Art Club have been on a kind of an antique hunt in their attics and their relation's attics for old wooden bowls which they design.

The Glee Club has had many extra meetings in preparation for the Cantata which they gave this afternoon.

The School Craft Club has been busy making materials for the assemblies.

Basketball has started with each team expecting to be champions.

The girls play at noon and the games are refereed by Mr. Cronin. The boys play at night and Mr. MacKenzie takes charge.

Briscoe, or "Brisky" as he is most commonly known, is the school's pet. As he is only a kitten nothing can be expected from him but frolic. In the future "Brisky" will receive the task of ridding Briscoe of its troublesome mice.

On Saturday December 7th, five of Briscoe's pupils and a group of High School pupils attended the opera "Aida" with Miss Robbins.

The safety squad has done great work at the crossings during this icy weather.

At the present writing two of our school mates, Virginia Calve and Joseph McGinnis are in the Beverly Hospital. We extend Christmas greetings and the wish that they will be back at school very soon.

*Frederick Kilham*  
News Editor

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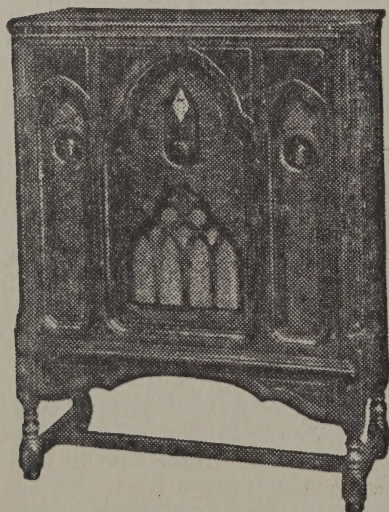
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Everyone WANTS money for Christmas. Everyone SHOULD have it.

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Payments are to be made weekly or in advance.  
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